

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express our concerns about the Golden Sands Dairy. There are so many ways that this CAFO will impact Saratoga citizens both young and old. My (b)(6) and I feel rather discouraged at this point. We are nearly (b)(6) and nearing the time we had planned to sell our home and move into town. We had figured the sale of our home would make funds available for living expenses and our care in the coming years. Because of this CAFO, we may never be able to sell our home. Lenders realize our property values have gone down and many are no longer willing to issue mortgages for homes in Saratoga – and the farm isn't even here yet! The increased property taxes will certainly be a hardship to us all! It really doesn't seem fair that this CAFO will destroy our lives.

Our residents fear the pollution of our wells. What do we do when our well is too polluted to use or goes dry? I can't imagine how (b)(6) will haul water – and where would we get that water to haul?

My (b)(6) has (b)(6) and gets (b)(6) very easily. (b)(6) is an "outdoor" person and hates to be inside. He spends many of his days working on our 5 acres. We heat with wood, so he is out in cold weather as well as warm making firewood. Needing to buy more propane would tax our budget even further!

We will have manure spread on land across the road from us and land next to us as our driveway is along the lot line. Those central pivots and manure "cannons" will spray our land and driveway. There will be no way we can keep it from our shoes as we walk to the mailbox or cut down trees near the driveway and it will be impossible to keep it out of our home! Nor will we be able to escape the airborne spray or keep it out of our bodies

There are so many ways this CAFO will change our lives and those of our neighbors. There is a church-run elementary school less than one mile from the CAFO. The Town of Rome is expanding and they are concerned how the CAFO – about 3 miles from their town hall – will discourage development. Businesses and homes have been built fully expecting to have good water and full lakes. This CAFO will be far reaching in its effects!

There are a few things the DNR could do to help us:

Let the 500 ft. setback in Saratoga be measured from the property line, not the buildings.

Insist that a buffer of existing trees and shrubs be left in place along roads that are across from homes or next to properties such as ours (There is one home that will have manure spread on three sides) to reduce manure contamination.

Require the CAFO to put a 6 foot clay liner on the outside of the cement waste water lagoon. Cement lagoons leak but a clay wall will take many years before it starts to degrade. Two is better than one in this case.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

